

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A histological specimen retaining device for processing tissue, said device comprising: a foldable fluid permeable sheet having edges; a fluid permeable target disposed on the foldable fluid permeable sheet within the edges of said sheet, thereby providing extended flap portions which flap portions are foldable to overlap the fluid permeable target; and a malleable securing strip attached to the foldable fluid permeable sheet of a length sufficient to secure said folded flap portions overlapping said fluid permeable target.

2. (Currently Amended): The histological specimen retaining device of claim 1 further comprising wherein the malleable securing strip is attached at an edge of the fluid permeable sheet.

3. (Original): The histological specimen retaining device of claim 1, wherein the malleable securing strip is a metal wire.

4. (Original): The histological specimen retaining device of claim 1, wherein the malleable securing strip is metal foil.

5. (Currently Amended): The histological specimen retaining device of ~~claim 1~~ claim 1, further comprising wherein the fluid permeable target is coated with a release agent.

6. (Currently Amended): The histological specimen retaining device of claim 1, wherein the fluid permeable target is a fluid permeable paper sheet.

7. (Currently Amended): The histological specimen retaining device of ~~claim 1~~ claim 1, further comprising an X and Y coordinate marking lines on the fluid permeable target.

8. (Withdrawn): A method for processing tissue samples in preparation for histological examination, said method comprising: (A) providing a histological retaining device comprising (i) a foldable permeable sheet having edges with a permeable target disposed within the edges of said sheet, thereby providing extended flap portions which flap portions are foldable to overlap the target, and (ii) a malleable securing strip attached to the foldable permeable sheet of a length sufficient to secure said folded flap portions overlapping said target; (B) creating a tissue preparation system comprising (i) placing a tissue sample on the target of said device, (ii) folding the flap portions to overlap the target containing the tissue sample; (iii) crimping the malleable securing strip to clamp the folded flap portions to the permeable target; and (C) processing the tissue preparation system for histological examination in known ways.

9. (Withdrawn): The method of processing tissue samples according to claim 8 further comprising adding a binder to the tissue sample on the target prior to the folding of the flap portions.

10. (Withdrawn): The method of processing tissue samples according to claim 9, wherein the binder is at least one of agar or agarose.